CLAIMS

1. A method of reinforcing or reinstating an existing structure, comprising the steps of:

attaching a reinforcing metal layer to said metal panel in spaced apart relation to thereby form at least one cavity between surfaces of said metal panel and said reinforcing metal layer;

injecting an intermediate layer comprised of an uncured plastics or polymer material into said at least one cavity; and

curing said plastics or polymer material so that it adheres to said surfaces of said metal panel and said reinforcing metal layer so as to transfer shear forces therebetween; wherein

said existing metal structure comprises a generally tubular part and said reinforcing metal layer is attached inside tubular part.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said existing structure is an off-shore structure.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said tubular part is a submerged or partly submerged part.

4. A method according to claim 2 or 3 wherein said tubular part is a support leg or bracing member of an off-shore structure.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said reinforcing layer comprises a series of plates or shaped parts that are welded together *in situ*.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein said reinforcing layer comprises complete rings

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said reinforcing layer also covers end walls of the tubular part as well as side walls.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said reinforcing layer is made of steel, stainless steel or aluminium.

9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said reinforcing layer has a thickness in the range of 3 to 50mm.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said plastics or polymer material comprises a compact elastomer.